(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under Department of Mines, the growth in mining sector is higher (1.63%) during April—February, 2001-2002 as compared to the corresponding period of the year 2000-2001.

(c) In view of (a) above does not arise.

Amendment to contract labour laws pertaining to coal mining sector

5253. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy has suggested amendments to the Contract Labour Laws pertaining to coal mining sector;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations have been implemented/ being implemented;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Committee on Integrated Coal Policy have not suggested amendments to the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. However, they have made recommendations for exempting the coal industry from the notifications issued under Section 10(1) of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 prohibiting employment of contract labour in certain categories of jobs in the coal mines. Exemption has been recommended in the following categories of jobs:

(i) Loading and unloading of coal by mechanical means.

(ii) Oberburden removal and earth cutting by mechanical means.

(iii) Underground driving of stone drifts and miscellaneous stone cutting.

(iv) Sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of buildings.

(v) Transport of middlings and removal of slurry.

The grant of exemptions from the said notifications is decided in the Ministry of Labour, Coal India Limited have, before and after submission of these recommendations by the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy, through the Ministry of Coal approached the Ministry of Labour requesting for grant of exemption in various categories of jobs, including those mentioned in the recommendations, in different areas.

The requests have been granted in the following categories and areas:

	Category of jobs	*Area*
1.	Raising or raising-cum selling of coal	Kasta and Kalisapur areas of Eastern Coalfields Limited. [Granted for five years (1997—2002)].
2.	Coal loading and unloading	
3.	Overburden removal and earth cutting	

The requests have not been agreed for grant of exemption in the following categories and areas:

	Category of jobs	*Area*
1.	Raising or raising-cum-selling of coal	1. Vasundhara and Chaturdhara areas of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.
2.	Coal loading and unloading	2. Baroud and Domnara areas of South Eastern Coalfields Limited.
3.	Overburden removal and earth cutting.	3. Hazaribagh, Rajhara and NK areas of Central Coalfields Limited.
		4. Chennur, Bhoopalapalli and Medepalli areas of Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

In the meanwhile, as per a verdict of the Supreme Court, sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of buildings is now out of the prohibited category.

Committee to look into the affairs of CIL and BCCL

5254. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee was set up in 1993 to look into the affairs of Coal India Ltd. and BCCL Dhanbad and other related issues of coal, its resources etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the major findings of the Committee;

(d) whether in 1994 Chairman, Coal India Ltd. was asked to take action on the findings of the Committee;

(e) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(f) the reasons for not taking any action against BCCL, Dhanbad and its officials as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A Government Committee under Shri R.N. Mishra, then CMD, NCL was set up on 27-07-1992 to investigate into the stock shortage in BCCL during the period from 1986-87 to 1992-93. The Committee submitted its report on 24.12.1993 to the Government.

(c) The Committee recommended certain measures for systems improvement to prevent further irregularities in coal stock shortages. These related to maintenance of optimum stock level, stacking of coal, despatch of slow moving stock, etc. The Committee had also recommended initiation of disciplinary proceedings against individual coal executives for coal stock shortage and over-reporting of production.

(d) Acceptance of the major recommendations of the report was conveyed to CIL on 22.4.1994 directing that show-cause notices be served to all those officers against whom *prime-facie* case has been established in the report.